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DAKIN'S EUCALYPTUS OIL.
THIS OIL is a valuable external remedy for Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Sprains, Chilblains, Whooping Cough, Croup, Asthma, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Chronic Liver Complaint, and all other Painful Affections where a Stimulating Application is required.
IN OBSTINATE AND CHRONIC CASES OF RHEUMATISM, &c., this Oil has proved of inestimable service; the speedy relief given in many instances of long standing has established it as a special popular remedy. The glow of warmth it produces over the surface of the skin renders it a valuable agent for all ailments where an outward remedy is required. In the treatment of Rheumatism and all local affections, it is designated to rank as one of the first and most successful remedies. Its action is always prompt, always certain, and never fails in giving relief. The Directions as given should be strictly attended to.
As a Disinfectant, Deodorant and Antiseptic this Oil, being a complete Sanitary Agent for all purposes, needs only a trial to convince the most sceptical. The sweet and refreshing aroma (although peculiar at first to some), supplies to a sick room an exhilarating and purifying effect. Special attention should be paid to the directions.
2 oz. bottles.....50 cents.
4 oz. ".....\$1.00.

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PINE, APRICOT, CHERRY, LIME, GUAVA, and other FRUIT JELLIES in great variety.

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A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 1st November, 1891.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph," and not to the Editor.
Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.
Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication; but as evidence of good faith.
While the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open for the free discussion of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisements are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in this paper no later than Three o'clock on the day before the day of publication of the paper.
Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until discontinued.
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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1891.

TELEGRAMS.

THE MARINES.

LONDON, November 20th.
It is stated that the Government will propose next session an increase to the strength of the Royal Marines of 5,000 men.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The British cruiser *Porpoise* (Captain Burt) arrived here from Swatow today.

It is officially announced that Mr. George Costes resigned his duties as Consul for Germany at this post on the 19th inst.

The release of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ended November 22nd, 1891—Europeans, 189; Chinese, 1,559; total 1,748.

GREEN boughs of the eucalyptus tree are said to be among the best disinfectants known for a room where scarlet fever exists.

Four hundred and thirty-four deaths were registered in Hongkong during the month ended the 31st October. Of this 11 were Europeans.

Miss Quante—Do you know, Mr. Jiblets tried to put his arm round me last night? Mrs. Camo—I never gave him credit for so much courage!

We are indebted to the *Japan Mail* for an interesting and very nicely put up report (in pamphlet form) of the recent Autumn Meeting of the Nippon Race Club.

THE horses of the German cavalry regiments are to be entirely shod with paper shoes, recent experiments as to their durability, etc., having proved entirely satisfactory.

THE force of habit may be said to have reached its climax when a reporter, during the celebration of his own marriage, pulls out his note-book and takes down the parson's address!

SACRIFICING everything to Art—Hongkong Citizen—See here, William Porter; you've cut off a piece of my ear. Tonsorial Artist—Yes; they seemed to me a trifle large.

We are informed by the Agent of the O. & S. S. Co., that the steamship *Oceanic*, with mail, &c., from San Francisco to the East Ind. has arrived at Yokohama, and will leave for this port to-morrow.

"Are these stockings in fact colors? Black generally runs dreadfully," she said.
"I assure you, madam," returned the salesman, "I assure you these stockings are woven from the wool of a black sheep."

THE sensational serial story of "An Irish Sailor's Career," reproduced in another column from the *Sunday News*, will no doubt be read with interest by many of Capt. O'Keeffe's friends and acquaintances in this colony.

Of the 100,174 regular soldiers serving at home in the British Army on the first day of this year only 12,893, the War Office returns show, were born in Ireland. At one time one-third of the whole British Army were Irishmen.

Broke—I understand you call on Noake every evening?
Soké—Yes.
Broke—You didn't notice him formerly?
Soké—(Brightening up) dear boy, he's just received a cask of five-star Hennessy.

HENRY E. BODGE was the prize offered by a London journal for the best definition of money by submitting this one:—"An article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except Heaven, and as a universal provider of everything except happiness."

She—You are very depressed. I didn't know you cared so much for your uncle.
He—I didn't, but I was the means of keeping him in a lunatic asylum the last year of his life, and now that he has left me all his money, I've got to prove that he was of sound mind.

THE Rev. Dr. Hanson recently lectured, his subject being "fools." The Rev. Dr. Vincent, who is somewhat of a wag, introduced him thus:—"We are now to have a lecture on fools by one—long pause and loud laughter—"of the wisest men of the country." The lecturer advanced to the desk and responded as follows:—"I am not half so big a fool as Dr. Vincent!" long pause and loud laughter—"would have you suppose?"

HONGKONG Magistrate (a few years hence)—I understand you were attacked by three Chinese footpads in Hollywood Road on your way home last night, and that you shot one of them. I fine you \$10.

Citizen—What for?
Magistrate—For letting the other two get away. Next case.

THE influenza, remarks our wide-awake friend of the *Sydney Bulletin*, is often a dim, mysterious disease which comes upon public men at opportune moments. As a rule, it spares the piecemaker, and concentrates its energy upon the civil servant with a large regular salary. It is very little about on the first of the month, but comes round again a day or two before the gas-collector and prevents the master of the house from drawing a cheque. At interfering with the payment of accounts it stands unrivalled in the history of epidemics.

FOOTBALL. "A" and "H" Companies met at A. S. Highlanders will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess to-morrow, commencing at 8 p.m.:
March "Op" "Scholar"
Vale "Toujours Fide" "Widow"
Vale "Widow" "Widow"
Vale "Widow" "Widow"
Vale "Widow" "Widow"
Vale "Widow" "Widow"

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In reply to a correspondent the Editor of the *Sydney Bulletin* says:—"The *Bulletin* doesn't believe in making the lawyer a State official. Its conviction is that he is utterly unnecessary, and that law, as well as Sunday-school tracts, can be written in plain English, so that any man can understand them without expensive outside assistance. In the days when only Latin Scriptures were allowed, the priest had just the same monopoly as the lawyer. But people have found out that he isn't indispensable."

THE trial of the largest cruiser in the world, H.M.S. *Blake*, will be watched, says a home paper, with no common interest by the Admiralty, who are responsible for the design of her machinery, and the public, who have paid nearly half-a-million for this vessel. The ship, which carries an armament but little in excess of all our first-class cruisers, owes her great cost and huge dimensions to the desire of the Admiralty to secure a ship capable of beating all others of foreign navies in speed, and at the same time able to remain at sea for long periods owing to her coal-carrying capacity. Twenty-six knots is the guaranteed speed, her twenty-two guns will be obtained by giving her boilers capable of developing 20,000-horse power. So much importance has been laid on the success of the *Blake's* trials, that though her machinery has been in the vessel for the past six months, the full power trials have been deferred until this week pending alterations suggested by the failures in the boilers of other recently designed cruisers. These alterations are now completed.

TO-DAY'S SHIPPING RETURNS.

Inward.	
<i>Verwardis</i>	from Holo.
<i>Chiyang</i>	" " Wuhu.
<i>Ghazen</i>	" " Singapore.
<i>Fokien</i>	" " Shanghai, &c.
<i>Hongchow</i>	" " Swatow.
<i>Gwailor</i>	" " Yokohama.
<i>Asago</i>	" " Nagasaki.
<i>Ezaki</i>	" " Canton.
<i>Takes</i>	" " Canton.
<i>Clayton</i>	" " Kobe.
<i>Dora Forster</i>	" " Kutchinatu.
<i>Therut</i>	" " Canton.
<i>Nicola</i>	" " Bangkok.
<i>Arion</i>	" " Singapore.
<i>Adam W. Spies</i>	" " New York.

Aggregating 16,010 tons, register.

Outward.	
<i>Halong</i>	for Holo.
<i>Triumph</i>	" " Holo.
<i>S. Para Nang</i>	" " Bangkok.
<i>Toonan</i>	" " Canton.
<i>Lysmoor</i>	" " Canton.
<i>Choyang</i>	" " Swatow.
<i>Kwangsing</i>	" " Kobe.
<i>Belahis</i>	" " Kobe.

Aggregating 9,476 tons, register.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before the full Court.)

November 23rd.

THE COMPROMISE CASE.
An application was made by Mr. Leach, instructed by Messrs. Wootton and Deacon, for a rehearing of the case No. 56 of 1891, China and Manila Steamship Co. v. Yu Chan Fong, late promisor to Russell and Co., managers of the Company, in which judgment was given on Oct. 28 in favour of defendants, dismissing plaintiffs' suit for an account of certain moneys paid by the promisor for Russell and Co. on behalf of the Steamship Co., and other relief. Mr. Leach said that originally the plaintiffs made the mistake of not producing evidence, and as the defendant had carefully avoided that also, there was nothing to appeal on, and it was sought to have the case heard over again in order that some material might be provided on which to base an appeal in proper form.

A long discussion ensued between Mr. Leach and the Court. The Chief Justice pointed out that the learned counsel had himself said the only point in dispute was a point of law, which would have a right to appeal, but as he had not produced evidence, and the defendant had carefully avoided that also, there was nothing to appeal on, and it was sought to have the case heard over again in order that some material might be provided on which to base an appeal in proper form.

Mr. Leach wished to refer to a report of the previous hearing.
Sir J. Russell—What report?
Mr. Leach for the *China Mail* report, which seems to be fairly correct.
Sir J. Russell—Oh no, there are never any of those reports that can be relied on.
After a long argument on the question whether an appeal or a motion for rehearing was the proper course, their lordships reserved judgment.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST AN OLD HONGKONG RESIDENT.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE POLICE COURT.

Edward Littlefield Woodin, 51, described as of England, late agent of the Peninsular and Oriental S.S. Navigation Co. at this port, arrived here from Yokohama this morning on board the P. & O. steamer *Gwailor*, in charge Inspector Hennessy and Detective-Sergeant Hadden, of the Hongkong Police, who were despatched from here on the 23rd ultimo with a warrant for Mr. Woodin's arrest, granted upon an information lodged by Mr. Edward A. Hewitt, a clerk in the service of the P. & O. Company. The information contained two distinct charges and ran as follows:—

Firstly, conspiring and stealing one hundred thousand dollars the monies of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Limited, between the 9th of August, 1887, and the 15th October, 1891, while resident in Hongkong.
Secondly, while employed as a servant of the aforesaid Company, unlawfully, wilfully and with intent to defraud, did falsify certain accounts sent to the Head Office of the Company in London, between the 9th day of August, 1887, and the 15th October, 1891.

Mr. Woodin—who was arrested in Tokyo by Special Police Chief Public Prosecutor of Tokyo District Court, by virtue of a warrant issued by Viscount Tanaka, Minister of State for Justice, at the instance of the British Minister to Japan—looked 110 and careworn when removed from the steamer to the Central Station. He was lodged in the Charge Room until 11 a.m. at which hour he was brought before Mr. A. G. Byles, of Messrs. Jackson, Stokes and Stewart,

who prosecuted for the P. & O. Co., nor Mr. Jno. J. Francis, Q. C., who has been specially retained for the defence, was present, and the proceedings were purely formal.

George Hennessy, Inspector of Police, said:—By virtue of the warrant produced I arrested the prisoner on board the British steamer *Gwailor* in the harbour of Yokohama, Japan. The arrest was effected by me at 7.40 a.m. on the 23rd day of this month. When arrested the prisoner said nothing except that he was ill. I accompanied him down here in the said steamer. The accused asked no questions, and his Worship remanded the case for one week. No application for bail was made.

MORE SHIPPING CASUALTIES.

The Norwegian bark *Aron*, arrived from Manila today and reports as follows:—Passed through centre of typhoon off Manila 14th Nov. latitude 14 d. 41; lost topsails, deck swept ship slightly damaged; had two men badly injured and cargo shifted. On the 18th November, 1891, north 18 west, wind rose from north-west to S.E., continued gale up to the 22nd inst. Spoke J.V.T.Q. from Singapore, bound to Tacapuran, 41 days out off Manila. The British bark *Narya* (Capt. T. Norris) arrived from Bangkok this morning after battering through two typhoons; one the 14th and the other on the 16th instant. Three Chinese sailors died from natural cause *en voyage*. The American bark *A. W. Spies* arrived from New York yesterday in charge of the chief officer, the captain having died at sea some time previously.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon. There were present:—H. E. Major-General Dwyer, Officer Administering the Government; Mr. W. M. Goodman (Acting Colonial Secretary); Mr. A. J. Leach (Acting Attorney-General); Mr. F. A. Cooper (Acting Surveyor-General); Mr. J. H. Stewart (Registrar-General); Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes (Colonial Treasurer); Capt. Hastings R. N. (Acting Harbour Master); Messrs. C. P. Chater, T. H. Whitehead, P. Ryrie and Hal. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table despatches referring to the withdrawal of the Chinese Consul-General.
GAMBLING STATISTICS.
In reply to Mr. Whitehead's question, a large mass of information was laid on the table, showing that the number of convictions since the commencement of the Gambling Ordinance up to the end of September, 1891, was 1179; amount of fines levied, \$11,748.50; fines collected, \$6,301.50; imprisonment, 414, of whom 206 were for 14 days, six for ten days, one for seven days, and one for four days. The number in prison on October 12th (when the question was first asked) was 66. The cost could not be ascertained, but might be calculated by taking a proportion of the total cost of the gaol, clerks, &c.

ASSIGNMENT OF DEBT.
In reply to Mr. Whitehead, the Attorney-General said that the question could not be answered exactly owing to some misapprehension of what took place in the court, commented on by the *China Mail*. It was found, however, that in equity debt could be assigned, as in England; but in law it could not in this Colony. Mr. Ewins objected in certain bankruptcy proceedings to the appearance of a gentleman as assignee of a bill of sale, not having a power of attorney from the assignor. In England, since the passing of the Judicature Act, under sec. 25 subsec. 3, the assignee had power both in law and in equity. This provision the Government had now under consideration with a view to its introduction in this Colony.

THE WORK OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.
In reply to Mr. Whitehead, the Colonial Secretary said that there was no record of any annual report of the work of the Registrar General in Denmark ever having been laid on the table. The Secretary of State had requested that such a report be made, and at the end of this year it would be drawn up and laid on the table in due course.

THE OPIUM FARM.
In reply to Mr. Whitehead, it was denied that any despatch had been received here similar to one received in Singapore from the Secretary of State intimating that the Farming system (before the new three years' lease, about to be granted, "xix") should be considered with a view to its modification, and the adoption of a system of Licences to be issued at high rates—the object being to diminish the evil of the Opium traffic without seriously crippling the revenue.

CIRCULATION OF PAPERS.
Mr. Whitehead moved that in future two copies of all papers to be laid upon the Council table be forwarded direct to the Hon. Members at their private address if possible 24 hours before the meeting of Council, or longer. On previous occasions he had asked for this, but the former practice of doing so had been abandoned. Last Monday a despatch was laid on the table, and a part of it was discussed the same afternoon. It was utterly impossible for those who had not seen it to be able to discuss the nature of its contents or to be able to discuss them. If an Unofficial Member were unavoidably absent from a meeting, he had no opportunity of opportunity of seeing the papers laid on the table, unless by chance he noticed them in the local printer's had his attention specially directed to them in some way. If the papers could not be forwarded before the meeting they might at least be forwarded afterwards.

Mr. Ryrie seconded the motion, saying that formerly all papers were circulated in advance. The Colonial Secretary said the Government could not undertake to forward papers in advance, as often there was no time or opportunity for that. It was a matter of convenience, and if it desired, it had always been the wish of the Government in this matter to meet the convenience of members and also of the press, and extra copies would be printed and forwarded as early as possible.

After some further conversation it was agreed that copies should in all cases be sent to members after each meeting.

THE RICKSHA NUISANCE.
Mr. Whitehead—Your Excellency, section 3 of Ordinance 21 of 1887 gives the Government in Council power to issue rules for the regulation of public vehicles, and of traffic carried on by means of such vehicles. Such rules have been issued, yet there is no serious attempt to enforce them, nor to regulate the traffic in the public streets. At several points at certain hours it is positively dangerous to pass along Queen's Road, Central, East, and West, on foot, in chair, in rickshas or other conveyance. Rickshas and chairs are allowed by the Police to loiter about plying for hire without let or hindrance in the streets and in the roads, and many of them are not required to have their lamps lit after dark. As yet, in the Club, the Hotel, the Warehouse, and the leading places, chairs and

rickshas, half a dozen, more or less, at the same time, are free to rush at passengers and invariably a fierce struggle amongst them ensues as to who shall devour the passenger. The passenger meanwhile runs the risk of having his head or his back broken or sustaining some injury. While the fight is going on between the coolies, as to who shall secure the hire, carts of every description, many carrying heavy loads of goods, are tolerated to move to and fro, east and west, in which every part of the road suits their convenience. There is no practical attempt at the regulation of the traffic and a more dangerous or more unsatisfactory condition of affairs it would be difficult to contemplate. Is it not Shanghai? In the "Model Settlement" no rickshas are permitted to move, his vehicle out of proper turn, and when such vehicles are in motion those going in one direction have to keep in line or in turn and to one fixed side, the left side of the road, while those moving in the opposite way have to keep the other side of the street. In this and in many other respects the Police Superintendent or authorities would do well to follow Shanghai. Its system of Municipal Government is a model and would work admirably in Hongkong. Our Police Superintendent officially with the sanction of the Government tolerates the Excise Officers and the minions of the Government Oppium Farmer to continue to search the persons of respectable Chinese men, and respectable Chinese women, not in suitable places set apart for the purpose but on the public wharves and in the public streets. The continuance of such searching of the persons of the Chinese in the public thoroughfares is diametrically opposed to the progress and welfare of Hongkong and is nothing short of an outrage on public and in a British Crown Colony. It is earnestly to be hoped that Government will at once put a stop to this searching of persons in the streets, enforce the existing rules for the regulation of public vehicles, and of the traffic carried on by means of such vehicles, and that the rules will no longer remain a dead letter.

I therefore beg to move that the Government lay on the table a return showing:—(1) The number of Police beats, and the arrangement of such beats; (2) The number of European Police on duty day and night, and the number on night duty, and their distribution during the day as well as during the night; (3) The number of Indian Police on duty day and night, and their distribution during the day as well as during the night; (4) The number of Chinese Police on duty day and night, and their distribution during the day as well as during the night; (5) The number of Constables and Officers on duty at fixed points by day and by night; and (6) The number of Constables and Officers detailed for the regulation of traffic.
Mr. Ryrie seconded the motion, and said that the regulations were laid down in 1890, and were, as far as concerned the rickshas coolies, nothing could be worse than the way they were allowed to go on. Nothing could possibly be worse. Going, for instance, from the Club to the City Hall, one found the traffic completely congested, and vehicles turned in and out in every direction, whichever way they liked. The chairs were not quite so bad as the rickshas, except about the hotels. The plea of the coolies was "We have a chair, or a ricksha, and we don't know where to go with it—they must go somewhere, so they do what is called 'crawling' in London."

His Excellency—As this Council is constituted, I consider that proposals of this kind, more especially in reference to police matters, are more properly made in the form of questions than resolutions. In this case the information asked for in the first of the six headings of the resolution fills thirty-eight pages of a book printed for the private use of heads of the police department. The grounds on which the publication of the particulars is urged are not shown, and I do not gather that they have been explained; but the nature of these particulars is such that if they were published to-day it would be necessary to cancel the whole of the police department, and issue completely new arrangements. The police are distributed so as to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens in the best possible manner. As long as I am responsible for the Government and good order of this colony I am not prepared to publish for the benefit of the criminal classes a full statement of all the places where they sit wait for and the policemen, to check them, or watch their movements. I am, however, quite prepared to give hon. members an opportunity of perusing the list of beats, and to receive any suggestions they may wish to make, which will always receive due consideration. Every constable has orders to enforce the traffic regulations while on his beat. I admit that the regulation of traffic does require some further modification. It was purely with this view that the Government contemplated changing the present system, and limiting the monopoly of rickshas to two or three instead of a larger number. One of the chief conditions of that was that those who were anxious to undertake the farm, as it is called, were prepared to supply certain regulations particularly for the rickshas, traffic, and to be responsible to the Government for the carrying out of the regulations. But it was thought desirable to continue the old system of licensing, and not to further limit the monopoly. This is only now being arranged for. The new licences will be issued on the first of next month, and it is still under the consideration of Government what further regulations shall be made, and what further instructions shall be given to the police to more strictly carry out the regulations which have been in force for some time.

Mr. Whitehead was quite satisfied with the answer, and withdrew his motion.
RETIREMENT.
Mr. Whitehead gave notice to move this day fortnight:—In consequence of the fact that the cost of the Administrative Staff of the Government of Hongkong is constantly increasing, having risen from \$47,050 in 1887, to the enormous amount of \$758,199 in 1891, and to the still larger estimated sum of about \$800,000 for 1892 exclusive of \$45,000 for Pensions for 1892, it is incumbent on the Hon. Members of Council, being the lawfully constituted guardians of the public purse, to seriously consider, and strenuously urge upon the Government, the necessity for retrenchment in every possible direction, more especially where it is remembered that we are threatened with a shrinkage in its revenue in the near future, and that our position with reference to Opium and the revenue derived therefrom is precarious.

Mr. Whitehead moved that the Government should appoint a Commission composed of members of Council, of Government Officers, and with full powers to enquire into and report on the working of all the Departments of the Government with a view to retrenchment, and to the desirability or otherwise of the redistribution of work, the augmentation of certain Offices, the increasing of the hours of the official day, privileges in the way of leave, &c.
THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.
The Attorney General moved the second reading of the Building Ordinance Amendment Bill. The object, he said, was twofold. It was desired to remedy certain defects in carrying out the Ordinance of 1880, in order to give the public more safety in the buildings erected, and to give the public more safety in the buildings erected, and to give the public more safety in the buildings erected.

On the adjournment of the Council a meeting of the Finance Committee was held. An interesting discussion took place on the item for chaplains, which was held over until to-morrow.
The Committee was still sitting at five o'clock.

THE PROPOSED CHINESE CONSUL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HONGKONG, 15th July, 1891.

My Lord—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's despatch No. 107 of the 21st of May stating that Her Majesty's Government had agreed to the appointment of Mr. Tso Ping-chang, Chinese Consul at Singapore, to be Consul at Hongkong for one year on the understanding that he should be withdrawn at the end of that time if the appointment should be found not to work well.
I have a view of making the announcement public, I enclose a copy of your lordship's despatch, before the Legation Council at its last meeting. In the previous correspondence on the subject of this appointment, Sir William De Vaux has referred fully to the objections which have always existed, and still do exist, on the part of the whole community of this Colony, and as it has nevertheless been decided to accede to the wishes of the Chinese Government I assume that what are deemed Imperial interests have in this matter overruled Colonial interests.
Under these circumstances I refrain from adding my adverse opinion of the advisability of the appointment to the protests which have already reached your lordship, and can only desire most fervently to carry out your lordship's instructions in the matter.
4. There are, however, several points upon which I shall be glad to have your Lordship's directions, viz.:—
(1) What are to be the duties and powers of the Consul?
(2) How will the position of the Registrar-General be affected? Are the Chinese still to be taught to look upon him as the Protector of Chinese, or are they to be rather encouraged to place themselves under the protection of the Chinese Consul?
(3) Is the Government to communicate in direct with the Chinese authorities through the Chinese Consul here instead of through Her Majesty's Consul at the Treaty Ports?
At present this Government approaches the Viceroy of the Two Kiang, resident in the neighbouring city of Canton, through Her Majesty's Consul-General at Canton, on all matters in which the assistance of the Chinese authorities is required, or on Chinese questions affecting the interests of the Colony. Similarly, the Government communicates direct with Her Majesty's Consul at the Treaty Ports in China, and with Her Majesty's Minister at Peking.
(4) Under the Agreement of 1886 the Commissioner of Customs for the Kowloon District has supreme charge of the Revenue officers of the Chinese Preventive Service, and this Government corresponds direct with him on questions arising out of the administration of that service.
In future are such communications to be addressed to the Consul?
These are the principal points that occur to me at the moment on which are required definite instructions for the guidance of this Government.
5. I notice that the appointment of the Consul is to be on probation, as it were, for one year. With due deference I would suggest for your lordship's consideration whether it would not be more satisfactory to omit the mention of any limit to the time within which the appointment may be cancelled should it be found to be desirable that the Consul shall be withdrawn.
I have, etc.
G. DIBBY BARKER.

SECRETARY OF STATE TO OFFICE ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

DOWLING STREET, 1st October, 1891.

Sir—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 239 of the 15th of July last, as to the proposed appointment of a Chinese Consul at Hongkong.
You are aware that the request for this appointment has at present been withdrawn by the Chinese Government, but I may state, in reply to the questions raised by you, that the duties and powers of any Chinese Consul would have been generally similar to those of the consuls of other nations; that the inhabitants of the Colony would have been expected to look upon the Registrar-General as the Protector of Chinese, and that the Colonial Government would have continued to communicate with the Chinese authorities through Her Majesty's Consul officers.
I have, etc.
KNIGHTON.
The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

and several minor matters. It was intended to bring new work on old buildings on the same footing as entire new buildings, in respect of the plans submitted to the Surveyor-General, etc. Another amendment was to prevent additions to buildings which might be unsafe. The second reading was passed and the bill was taken in committee.

On the adjournment of the Council a meeting of the Finance Committee was held. An interesting discussion took place on the item for chaplains, which was held over until to-morrow.
The Committee was still sitting at five o'clock.

THE PROPOSED CHINESE CONSUL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HONGKONG, 15th July, 1891.

My Lord—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's despatch No. 107 of the 21st of May stating that Her Majesty's Government had agreed to the appointment of Mr. Tso Ping-chang, Chinese Consul at Singapore, to be Consul at Hongkong for one year on the understanding that he should be withdrawn at the end of that time if the appointment should be found not to work well.
I have a view of making the announcement public, I enclose a copy of your lordship's despatch, before the Legation Council at its last meeting. In the previous correspondence on the subject of this appointment, Sir William De Vaux has referred fully to the objections which have always existed, and still do exist, on the part of the whole community of this Colony, and as it has nevertheless been decided to accede to the wishes of the Chinese Government I assume that what are deemed Imperial interests have in this matter overruled Colonial interests.

Under these circumstances I refrain from adding my adverse opinion of the advisability of the appointment to the protests which have already reached your lordship, and can only desire most fervently to carry out your lordship's instructions in the matter.
4. There are, however, several points upon which I shall be glad to have your Lordship's directions, viz.:—
(1) What are to be the duties and powers of the Consul?
(2) How will the position of the Registrar-General be affected? Are the Chinese still to be taught to look upon him as the Protector of Chinese, or are they to be rather encouraged to place themselves under the protection of the Chinese Consul?
(3) Is the Government to communicate in direct with the Chinese authorities through the Chinese Consul here instead of through Her Majesty's Consul at the Treaty Ports?
At present this Government approaches the Viceroy of the Two Kiang, resident in the neighbouring city of Canton, through Her Majesty's Consul-General at Canton, on all matters in which the assistance of the Chinese authorities is required, or on Chinese questions affecting the interests of the Colony. Similarly, the Government communicates direct with Her Majesty's Consul at the Treaty Ports in China, and with Her Majesty's Minister at P

